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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 BIB-01 SAM-01 IO-10

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /086 W
---------- 064809
R 070822Z FEB 75
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3758
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, HK, CH, UR
SUBJ: HONG KONG COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER ON SINO-SOVIET BORDER DISPUTE

REF: HONG KONG 777

1. HONG KONG/PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO FEBURARY 4 CARRIED A SIGNED ARTICLE EXPANDING ON PREMIER CHOU'S REMARKS ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS IN HIS NPC ADDRESS (REFTEL). THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS CHOU'S ARGUMENT THAT SINO-SOVIET STATE RELATIONS (AND PARTICULARLY THE BORDER ISSUE) CAN BE IMPROVED WHILE MAINTAINING IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. THE ARTICLE MAINTAINS THAT "ABSOLUTELY NO RESULTS HAVE BEEN GAINED" SINCE BORDER TALKS BEGAN OCTOBER 20, 1969. THE ARTICLE PRESENTS THE PRC POSITION IN THE SAME TERMS CONTAINED IN THE OCTOBER 8, 1969 FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT.
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2. THE SOVIETS ARE CONDEMNED FOR HAVING ADOPTED A "BIG NATION CHAUVINIST" ATTITUDE, MASSING TROOPS ALONG THE BORDER AND IN MONGOLIA, LAUNCHING THE 1969 ATTACK ON CHENPAO ISLAND, AND VIOLATING THE SEPTEMBER 1969 KOSYGIN-CHOU AIRPORT AGREEMENT. THE ARTICLE ENDS BY REPEATING CHOU'S ADVICE TO THE SOVIETS "TO DO SOMETHING TO SOLVE A BIT OF THE PROBLEM."

3. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE'S REITERATION OF THE PRC POSITION IN THE EXACT TERMS AS DESCRIBED IN THE OCTOBER 1969 FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT SUGGESTS STRONGLY THAT THE PRC HAS NOT MADE ANY MOVES TOMODIFY ITS POSTURE IN THE INTERIM. TA KUNG PAO, WHOSE PUBLISHER WAS JUST ELECTED TO THE NPC PRESIDIUM, THUS APPARENTLY VIEWS THE CHOU NPC REPORT AND THE PRC NOVEMBER 6 MESSAGE AS MERELY REITERATIONS OF THE LONGTIME PRC STANCE. IN PROJECTING THIS NO-CHANGE SITUATION, PEKING MIGHT BE TRYING TO GET ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT RESPONDED IN ANY FASHION SINCE 1969 AND THAT THE CHINESE PROPOSAL STILL REMAINS ON THE TABLE. NOTEWORTHY ALSO IS THE ARTICLES MENTION OF "BLOODY INCIDENTS" ALONG THE BORDER ONLY IN 1969 WITH NO INDICA-TION THAT ANY FRESH CLASHES MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE, APPOINT LEFT UNCLEAR IN THE CHOU ADDRESS.

4. FULL TRANSLATION HAS BEEN FILED TO FBIS, WASHINGTON.
CROSS

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